



Articles to
be enquired in the visita-
tion, in the fyrst yeere of the
raigne of our most dread
Soueraigne Ladye
Elizabeth, by the
grace of God, of
Englande,
Fraince, and Irelande,
Queene, defendour
of the fayth. &c.

Anno domini. 1559.

Articles.



First, whether any¹
Parson, Vicar, or ^{Residence.}
Curate, be resi-
dent continually
vppon his bene-
fice, doing his du-
tie in preachyng,
reading, and due-
ly ministring the
holy Sacramen-
tes.

Item, whether in theyr Churches and Chap-²
pelles, all Images, Shrynes, all Tables, Can- ^{False myracles.}
delstiches, Crindelles, or rolles of ware, pictures,
payntynges, and all other monumentes of faig-
ned and false myracles, pylgrymages, idolatrie,
and superstition, be remoued, abolyshed, and de-
stroyed.

Item, whether they doo not, euerye holy day³
when they haue no Sermon, immediatly after ^{The Lordes}
the Gospell, openly, playnely, and distinctly, re- ^{prayer.}
cite to theyr parishioners in the pulpit the Lordes
prayer, the beleefe, and the ten commaundemen-
tes in Englyshe.

Item, whether they doo charge fathers and
mothers, maisters, and gouernours of youth, to⁴
bryng them by in some vertuous studie and occu- ^{To bryng by}
pation, ^{youth.}

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Curates.

5 Item, whether suche beneficed men as be lawfully absent from theyr benefices, do leaue theyr cures to a rude and vnlearned person, and not to an honest, wel learned, and expert Curate, whiche can and wyll teache you wholsome doctrine.

Reading the scriptures.

6 Item, whether they do discourage anye person from readyng of any part of the Byble, eyther in Latine or Englishe, and doo not rather comforte and exhort euery person to reade the same at convenient tymes, as the very lyuely worde of God, and the special foode of mans soule.

Tauernes and games.

7 Item, whether Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and other ministers, be common haunTERS and resorters to Tauernes or Alehouses, geuyng them selues to dzyng, ryotynge, and playng at vnlawful games, and do not occupye them selues in the readyng or hearyng of some part of holpe scripture, or in some other godly exercise.

Preachers.

8 Item, whether they haue admytted any man to preache in theyr cures, not beyng lawfully licensed thereunto, or haue ben licensed accordingly.

Superstition.

9 Item, whether they vse to declare to theyr parishioners, any thyng to the extollynge or setting forth of bayne and superstitious religion, pylgrimages, reliques, or images, or lyghtynge of candles.

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candels, kysyng, kneeling, or deckyng of the same images.

Item, whether they haue one booke or register ¹⁰ kept, wherein they wyte the day of euery wedding, christenyng, and buryng. ^{Register.}

Item, whether they haue exhorted the people ¹¹ to obedience to the Queenes Maiestie, and Ministers, and to charitie and loue one to another. ^{Obedience.}

Item, whether they haue admonyshe they? ¹² parishioners, that they ought not to presume to receiue the Sacrament of the body and blood of Christe, before they can say perfectly the Lordes prayer, the articles of the fayth, and the ten commaundementes in Englishe. ^{The Sacrament.}

Item, whether they be resident vpon they? ¹³ benefices, & keepe hospitalitie, or no. And yf they be absent, and keepe no hospitalitie, whether they do relieue they? parishioners, & what they geue the. ^{Hospitalitie.}

Item, whether Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, and Clarkes, hauing Churches, Chappels, ¹⁴ and Mansions, do keepe they? Chauncelles, Rectories, Vicarages, and al other houses apparte, tryng to them, in due reparations. ^{Reparations.}

Item, whether they do counsaile or moue their parishioners rather to pray in a tongue not knownen, then in Englishe, or put they? trust in any ceremony. ¹⁵ ^{Prayer in Englishe.}

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Beades. certayne number of prayers, as in saying our a number of beades, or other lyke.

Disfamed persons. 16 Item, whether they haue receiued anye persons to the Communion, being openly knowen to be out of charitie with theyr neyghbours, or disfamed with any notorious cryme, and not reformed.

Pooze mens boxe. 17 Item, whether they haue prouided, and haue a strong cheste for the pooze mens boxe, and set and fastened the same in a place of the Church, moste conuenient.

Testamentes. 18 Item, whether they haue diligently called vpon, exhorted, and mooued theyr parishioners, and especially when they make theyr Testamentes, to geue to the sayd pooze mens boxe, and to bestowe that vpon the pooze, whiche they were woont to bestowe vpon pylgrymages, pardons, trentalles, and vpon other lyke blynde deuotions.

Sycke. Burvall. 19 Item, whether they haue denyed to visite the sycke, or burye the dead, beyng brought to the Church.

Symonie. 20 Item, whether they haue bought theyr benefices, or come to them by fraude, guile, decepte, or symonie.

Adulterers. 21 Item, whether they haue geuen open monition to theyr parishioners, to detecte and presente to

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to they? Ordinary, al adulterers, & fornicatours,
and suche men as haue two wyues lyuyng with-
in they? parishes.

Item, whether they haue monished they? pari- 22
shioners openly, that they shoulde not sell, geue, Church
nor otherwyle alienate any of they? Churche
goodes.

Item, whether they or any of them doo keepe 23
mo benefices and other Ecclesiasticall promoti- Many bene-
ons then they ought to do, not hauyng sufficient fices.
licences and dispensations thereunto, and howe
many they be, and they? names.

Item, whether they minister the holy Com- 24
munion any otherwyle then only after suche Communion.
fourme and maner as it is set forth by the com-
mon auctoritie of the Queenes Maiestie and
the Parliament.

Item, whether you knowe any person within 25
your Parshie or els where, that is a letter of the Letters of the
worde of God to be read in Englyshe, or syncerely worde or prea-
preached in place and tymes conuenient. ching.

Item, whether in the tyme of the Letanye, 26
or any other common prayer, in the tyme of the Sacrs out of
Sermon or Homilie, and when the Prieste rea- the Church.
deth the Scriptures to the Parishioners, anye
person haue departed out of the Churche, with-
out iuste and necessarye cause, or disturbe the
Minister

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Minister otherwyle.

27 Church money Item, whether the money commyng and ry-
syng of any cattell, or other moueable stockes of
the churche, and money geuen and bequeathed
to the syndyng of Torches, lyghtes, Tapers, or
Lampes, not payde out of any landes, haue not
ben employed to the pooze mens chest.

28 Keepers of the Church money Item, who hath the sayde stockes and money
in theyr handes, and what be theyr names.

29 Contempt of Priestes. Item, whether any indiscrete person doo un-
charitably contemne and abuse Priestes and Mi-
nisters of the Churche.

30 The knyghtes. Grammer. Item, whether there be any other Grammer
taught in any schole within this Diocesse, then
that which is set forth by the aucthoritie of king
Henry the eyght.

31 The tyme of service. Item, whether the seruice of the church be done
at due and conuenient houres.

32 Talkers in the Churche. Item, whether any haue vsed to coramune,
iangle, and talke in the church in the tyme of the
prayer, readyng of the Homilie, preachyng, rea-
dyng or declaryng of the scripture.

33 Heresies. Item, whether any haue wylfully mayntey-
ned and defended any heresies, errors, or false
opinions, contrary to the sayth of Christ and holy
scripture.

Item,

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Item, whether anye be common drunkenhardes, 34
swearers, or blasphemers of the name of God. *Drunkenhardes.*

Item, whether anye haue committed adulter- 35
rie, fornication, or incest, or be common harodres, *Adulterers.*
or receyuers of suche euyl persons, or vehemently
suspected of any of the premises.

Item, whether any be brawlers, slanderers, 36
chyders, scolders, and sowers of discorde betwene *Brawlers.*
one person and an other.

Item, whether you knowe any that doo vse 37
charmes, sorceries, enchauntmentes, inuocati- *Sorcerers.*
ons, circles, witchcraftes, soothsaying, or any like
craftes or imaginations inuented by the de-
uyl, and specially in the tyme of womens tra-
uayle.

Item, whether the Churches, Pulpittes, and 38
other necessities apparteynnyng to the same, be *Pulpittes.*
sufficiently repayred, and yf they be not, in whose
default the same is.

Item, whether you knowe anye, that in con- 39
tempt of their owne parryshe Church, doo resort *Resorters to o-
ther Churches.*
to any other Church.

Item, whether any Inholders, or Alehouse 40
keepers, do vse commonly to sell meate and drinke *Inholders.*
in the tyme of common praier, preaching, reading
of the Homilies, or scripture.

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Deuout. 41 Item, whether you knowe any to be married within the degrees prohibited by the lawes of god, or that be separated or deuorced without the degrees prohibited by the lawe of God, and whether any suche haue married agayne.

Prinle contracts. 42 Item, whether you knowe any to haue made priuie contracts of Matrimonie, not calling two or moe witnesles therebnto, nor hauyng thereto the consent of their parentes.

Banes. 43 Item, whether they haue married solemnely, the banes not fyrst lawfully asked.

Executoirs. 44 Item, whether you knowe any executours, or administratours of dead mens goodes, whiche doo not onely bestowe suche of the sayde goodes, as were geuen and bequeathed, or appoynted to be distributed among the poze people, repayyng of hygh wayes, syndyng of poore scollers, or marryng of poore maydens, or such other lyke charitable deedes.

Images. 45 Item, whether you knowe any that keepe in their houses anye vndefaced Images, Tables, Pyctures, Dayntynges, or other Monumentes of faigned and false miracles, pylgrimages, idolatrie, and superstition, and doo adore them, and specially suche as haue ben set vp in Churches, Chappels, or Oratories.

Bookes. 46 Item, what bookes of Gods Scripture you haue

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haue deliuered to be burnt, or otherwise destroyed, and to whom ye haue deliuered the same.

Item, what bybes the accusers, promoters, 47
persecuters, Ecclesiastical Judges, and other the *bybes.*
Commissioners appoynted within the seuerall
Diocesse of this Realme, haue receyued by them
selues or other, of those persons whiche were
in trouble, apprehended, or imprisoned for religi-
on.

Item, what goodes moueable, landes, fees, of 48
fices, or promotions, hath ben wrongfully taken *losse of*
away in the tyme of Queene Maries raigne; *goodes.*
from any person whiche favoured the religion
nowe set forth.

Item, howe many persons for religion haue 49
died by fyre, famine, or otherwise, or haue ben im- *Howe many*
prisoned for the same. *are burnt.*

Item, that you make a true presentment of the 50
number of all the persons whiche dyed within *Certificates*
your parishes, sithen the feast of Saint John the *of the dead.*
Baptist, which was in the yere of our Lord God,
a thousand, fyue hundred, systie, and eyght, vnto
the same feast last past: making therein a playne
distincte declaration, howe many men, women,
and men chyldren the same were, and the names
of the men.

Item, whether you knowe any man in your 51
parishe *Secret Masses*

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parishe, secretly, or in unlawfull conventicles,
say, or heare Masse, or any other service prohibi-
ted by the lawe.

52 **Item,** whether you knowe any person in your
False rumours. parishe, to be a slanderer of his neighbours, or a
sower of discord betwene partie and partie, man
and wife, parentes & their chyldren, or that hath
invented, brulled, or set forth any rumours, false
and seditious tales, slaunders, or makers, byn-
Unlawfull
bookes. gers, byers, sellers, keepers, or conueighers of any
unlawfull bookes, which might styre and prouoke
sedition, or mainteine superstitious service with-
in this realme, or any ayders, counsaylers, procu-
rers, or maynteyners thereof.

53 **Item,** whether the Church of your parishe be
Patrone.
Epithes.
Vacation. nowe vacant or no, who is the Patrone thereof,
howe long it hath ben vacant, who doth receiue
the tithes, oblations, and other commodities du-
ryng the tyme of the vacation, and by what auc-
thoritie, and in what estate the sayde Church is
at this tyme, and howe long the Parson or Vicar
hath had that Benefice.

54 **Item,** whether any Minstrelles, or any other
Minstrelles. persons, bee ble to sing or say any songues, or di-
ties that be ble or vncleane, and specially in de-
rision of any godly order nowe set forth and esta-
blyshed.

55 **Item,** whether the Letande in Englyshe, with
Letanie in
Englyshe. the

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the Epistle & Gospel which was by the Queenes
hyghnesse Proclamation wyllled to be read to the
people, were put in vse in your Churches, and yf
not, who were the letters thereof.

Item, whether the Curates and Ministers do
leisurely, playnely, and distinctly reade the pub-
lique Prayers, Chapters, and Homilies, as they
ought to doo.

56

Distinct
reading.

¶ God saue the Queene.

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